

## REPORT

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SOURCE            Liri e Kombit (formerly I Merguem).

ORGANIZATION OF THE ALBANIAN ARMY  
ACCORDING TO REFUGEE

The following information on the Albanian Army of today was recently supplied by an Albanian refugee.

The strength of the Albanian army is about 40,000 men. It is divided into the following units:

Three divisions: 1st Division with headquarters at Tirana, 5th Division with headquarters at Gjinokaster, 7th Division with headquarters at Korce.

Two "Ndjekse" brigades (formerly constituting the National Defense Division) ["Ndjekse" means pursuit; one function of these brigades is to put down resistance].

Eight border guard battalions.

Beside these units, there are organic units directly subordinate to the Ministry of National Defense:

A heavy artillery brigade (Brigada) at Elbasan.

Two unattached infantry brigades at Shkoder.

A ~~communications~~ brigade at Tirana.

A coast artillery brigade at Durres.

A tank regiment (Rregjimenti) at Tirana.

A mortar regiment, equipped with 122-millimeter mortars at Tirana.

An antiaircraft regiment at Tirana.

An antitank regiment at Tirana.

- 1 -

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A marine regiment at Durres.

A battalion of Republican Guards at Tirana.

The Commander-in-Chief of the army and Minister of National Defense is Col-Gen Enver Hoxha.

Other high-ranking officers are:

Chief of Staff, Gen Beqir Balluku.

Political Director, Gen Hysni Kapo.

Operations Director, Col Petri Dume.

Artillery Director, Gen Tahir Kardarereja.

Personnel Director, Gen Haxhi Leshi.

The personnel director is not subordinate to the Ministry of National Defense. He is directly subordinate to the Prime Minister's office (the Political Office of the Workers' Party).

One or more Soviet advisers are attached to every branch and service of the Ministry of Defense, to every organic unit and every division. However, there are no Soviet advisers in regiments assigned to divisions. There is a security section in each divisional headquarters. The security section is not subordinate to divisional headquarters, but is directly under the Ministry of the Interior. The authority of the security section extends to every person in a division from the commanding officer to the private.

A division consists of three infantry regiments, one artillery regiment, and attached service units. A regiment consists of three infantry battalions and one attached unit. Each regimental headquarters has a regimental party committee. This committee takes charge of the political and ideological education of the enlisted men, noncommissioned officers and officers of the regiment. The committee is composed of the secretaries of the party bureaus in the battalions and of the following persons: the leader of the youth organization in the regiment, the party personnel chief of the regiment and the regimental Agitprop. The regimental party committee is directed by the political commissar of the regiment who maintains liaison with the political branches of the division.

A battalion headquarters consists of four platoons: an automatic rifle platoon, a liaison platoon, an antitank platoon, and a service platoon <sup>/sic/</sup>. There are three rifle companies, one light machine gun company, and one Maxim heavy machine gun company in a battalion. A company consists of 73 soldiers, 13 noncommissioned officers, five officers, and a warrant officer.

The present army is four times larger than the army in 1939. Formerly the government spent about half the state budget on the army. Today the state budget cannot defray the expenses of the army even if the whole budget were used. It is well known that the Albanian Army is supported by Soviet money. It is a great loss to the Albanian economy to have 40,000 men in the prime of life employed in unproductive work.

The Tirana government claims that Albania needs a very strong army for defense against Yugoslavia and Greece. The danger from 2 million Greeks and Yugoslavs armed with American and British weapons will not be over for a long time,

- 2 -

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but, unless there is another world war, neither the Greeks nor the Yugoslavs will attack Albania. Keeping an army at a cost beyond the economic ability of the country cannot avert danger of war; it can only prevent the progress of the country. The real purpose of such an army is to keep the present government in power and to serve Soviet imperialism.

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- 3 -

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